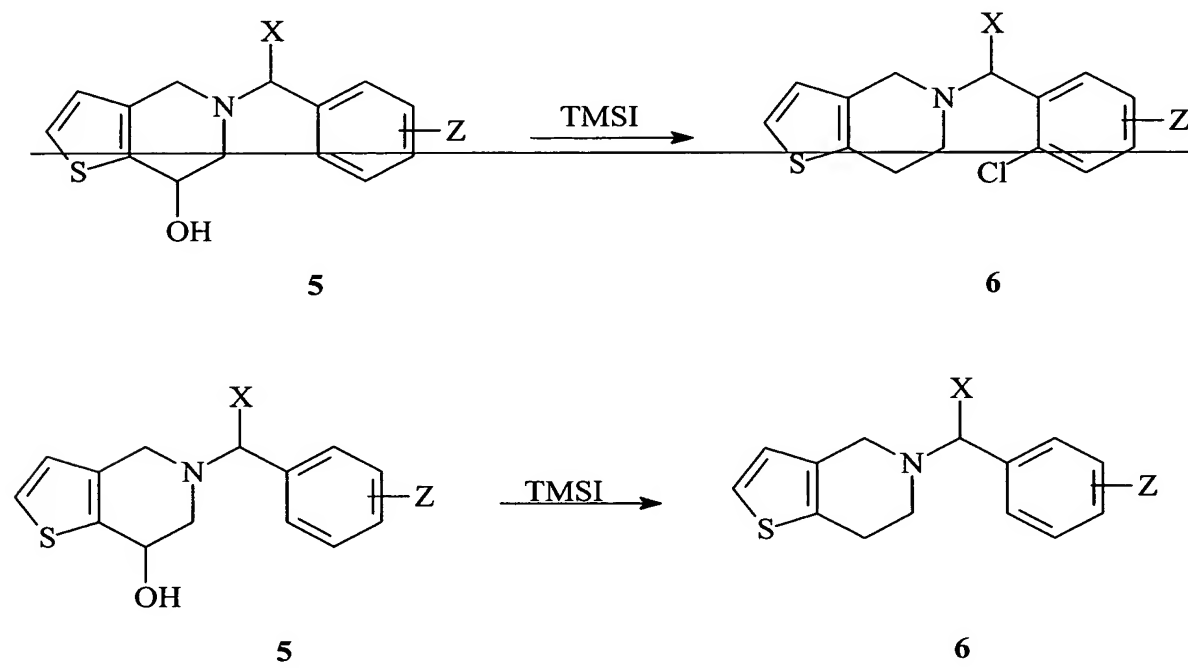


AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

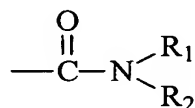
Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] The present invention provides for an improved and novel process for the preparation of racemic and/or enantiomerically enriched 4,5,6,7-tetrahydrothieno[3,2-c]pyridines of general formula 6 from 7-hydroxy-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-5-thienol[3,2-c]pyridines of general formula 5 (Scheme 2) by employing iodosilanes represented by the formula $\text{Si}(\text{R}_3)_3\text{I}$, for example iodotrimethylsilane (TMSI), as a dehydroxylation reagent.

Scheme 2



wherein X is represented by carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, or carbamoyl groups of formula



wherein R_1 and R_2 can be individually or simultaneously hydrogen, alkyl or part of a heterocyclic structure; Z can be hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, aryl, aryloxy or alkoxy group; R_3 may be an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aromatic group, or combinations of thereof. The process of this invention also includes when compound 5 is in either free base form or various salt forms. The reaction may be conducted in polar aprotic solvents (e.g. acetonitrile, CH_2Cl_2 , or *N, N*-dimethylformamide), and in aromatic solvents such as toluene or equivalent thereof, or in various combinations of the aforementioned solvents.